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# **Implementing a Native XML Database**

**Paul Springer**

**Joey Czikmantory**



# Database Requirements



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## Two main files in database

- ❖ **Missions:** List of space missions and the technological capabilities with associated metrics required/desired by each mission
- ❖ **Technologies:** List of existing and proposed technologies, along with the capabilities they offer and associated metrics

## Modest size requirements

- ❖ No more than a few thousand records in each file

## Handle hierarchical data well

- ❖ Mission structures are hierarchical in nature

## Easily modifiable structure

- ❖ Requirements and technologies are ever-changing

## Ease of Use

- ❖ Data entry/modification, data extraction
- ❖ Documentation

## Cross-platform access

- ❖ Analysts may use their own computers to extract data



# Technical Approach



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## **Hierarchical database**

- ❖ **Better match for handling hierarchical data than relational DB**

## **Use web browser based interface**

- ❖ **Cross-platform and easier to user**

## **Standard protocols and interfaces**

- ❖ **Allows pieces to be replaced if needs change**
- ❖ **Cross-platform**

## **Use Java as the language**

- ❖ **Good support for client/server, XML, web interface**

## **XML Schema for schema description**

- ❖ **Turbo XML from TIBCO for schema design & modification**

## **XQuery for querying database**

- ❖ **Qexo is open source, but incomplete**
- ❖ **Looking for alternatives**



# XML Rationale



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## Data does not easily fit into tables

- ❖ No clean rows and columns
- ❖ Hierarchical in nature
- ❖ Poor match for relational database storage
- ❖ Would require large numbers of sparse tables

## Ideally suited for XML format

- ❖ High ratio of object types to number of objects

## Added XML bonus: suitability for Web use

- ❖ Many tools exist for display and manipulation of XML data

## Disadvantages

- ❖ XML data uses lots of storage space--tags are repeated for each entry
- ❖ Retrieval can be slow
- ❖ Memory based DB => upper size limit of 1-2 GB



## Why Not Use a Table?



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**Example--A mission capability such as Formation Flying can contain a number of optional systems, such as:**

- ❖ **Formation Initialization, Fine Formation Flying, Stop & Stare Formation Flying**

**Each of the above has its own set of optional systems. Formation Initialization might require:**

- ❖ **Target Acquisition, Positioning, GN&C**

**GN&C might require some of the following subsystem capabilities:**

- ❖ **Collision/Constraint Avoidance, Fault Tolerance, Formation State Executive, Formation Executive, etc.**

**Difference instances of GN&C require different sets of capabilities**

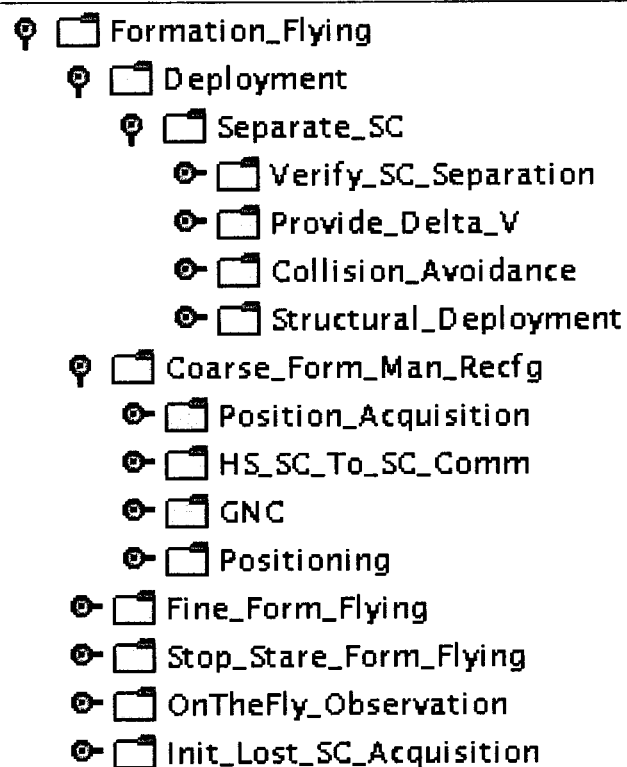
**These requirements are met more efficiently by a hierarchical structure than a tabular one**



decomposition_v4_5.xls															
	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
33															
34	Mission Capabilities:														
35	1.	Multiple Spacecraft Integration & Testing							316.5				125		
36	2.	Launch, Cruise & Orbit Insertion							316.5				125		
37	3.	Multiple Spacecraft Ground Control							316.5				125		
38	4.	Spacecraft Infrastructure (Power, Thermal)							316.5				125		
39	5.	Formation Flying							256.2	Y			125		
40															
41															
42															
43															
44															
45															
46															
47															
48															
49	5.2.2.1.	Acquire Relative Bearing							3.8				1 Accuracy	1	degree
50													1 Bearing Rate Knowledge	10	arcmin/s
51	5.2.2.2.	Acquire Relative Range							3.8				1 Accuracy	50	cm
52															
53															
54															
55	5.2.3.1.	Collision/Constraint Avoidance							1.9				1 # of Constraints	25	
56													Update Rate	1	Hz
57	5.2.3.2.	Fault Tolerance							1.9				1 # of Monitors	100	
58													Update Rate	1	Hz
59	5.2.3.3.	Formation State Estimation							1.9				1 #modes*#transitions*#S/C	200	
60													Update Rate	1	Hz
61	5.2.3.4.	Formation Executive							1.9				1 # of funtions + # actuators	100	
62													Update Rate	1	Hz
63															
64															
65															
66															
67															
68	5.3.1.1.	Acquire Relative Bearing							3.8				1 Field of Regard	10 x 10	degrees
69													Bearing Knowledge	1.0	degree
70													Bearing Rate Knowledge	1.0	arcmin/s
71	5.3.1.2.	Acquire Relative Range							3.8				1 Operational Range	15-100	meters
72													Range Knowledge	1.0	meters
73													Range Rate Knowledge	1.0	cm/s
74	5.3.1.3.	Acquire Formation Attitude							3.8				1 Accuracy		
Subsystems TPF LISA MMS MagCon Technology Values Technology References															
Ready CAPS NUM															

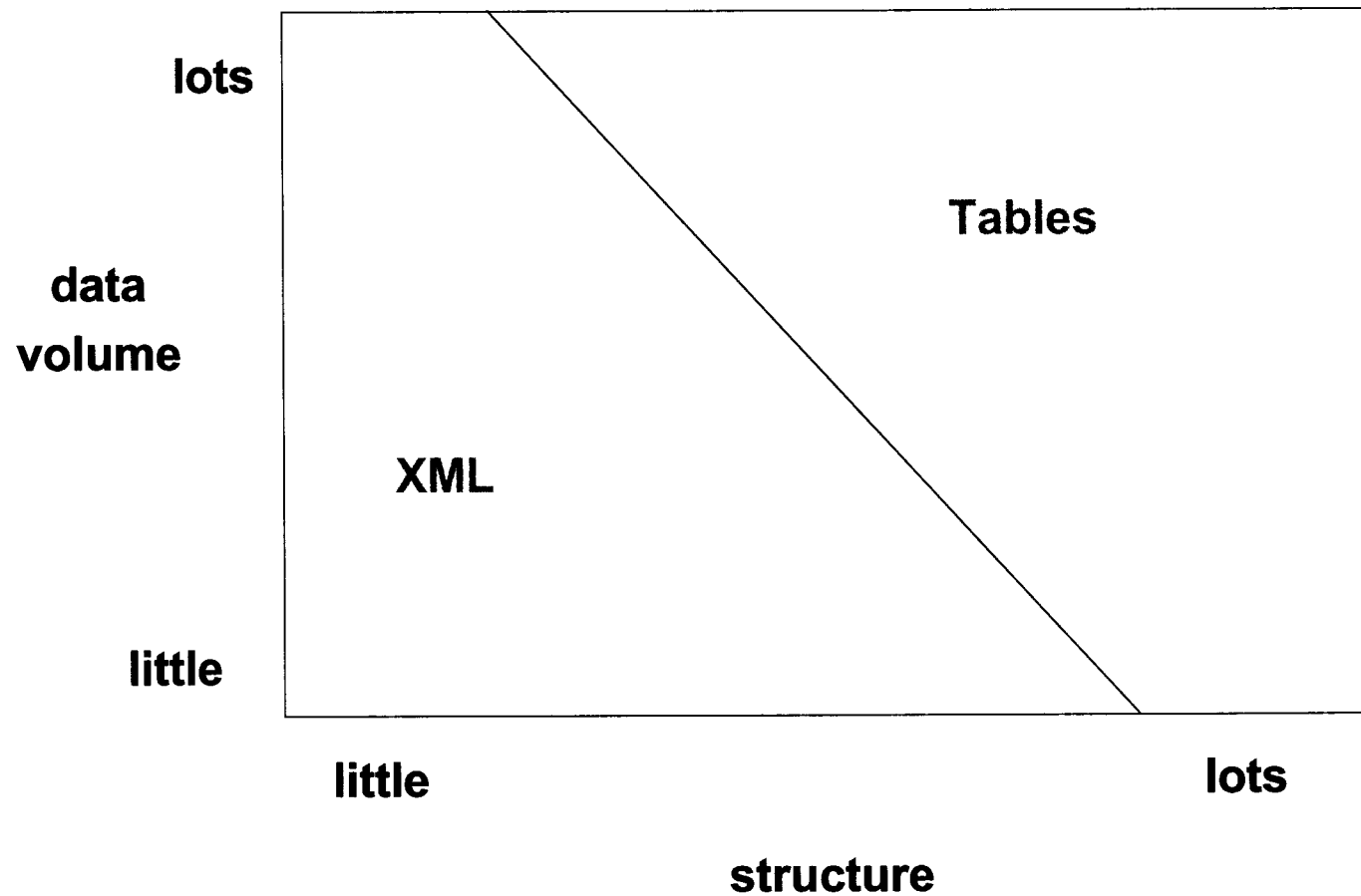


# Hierarchical Display





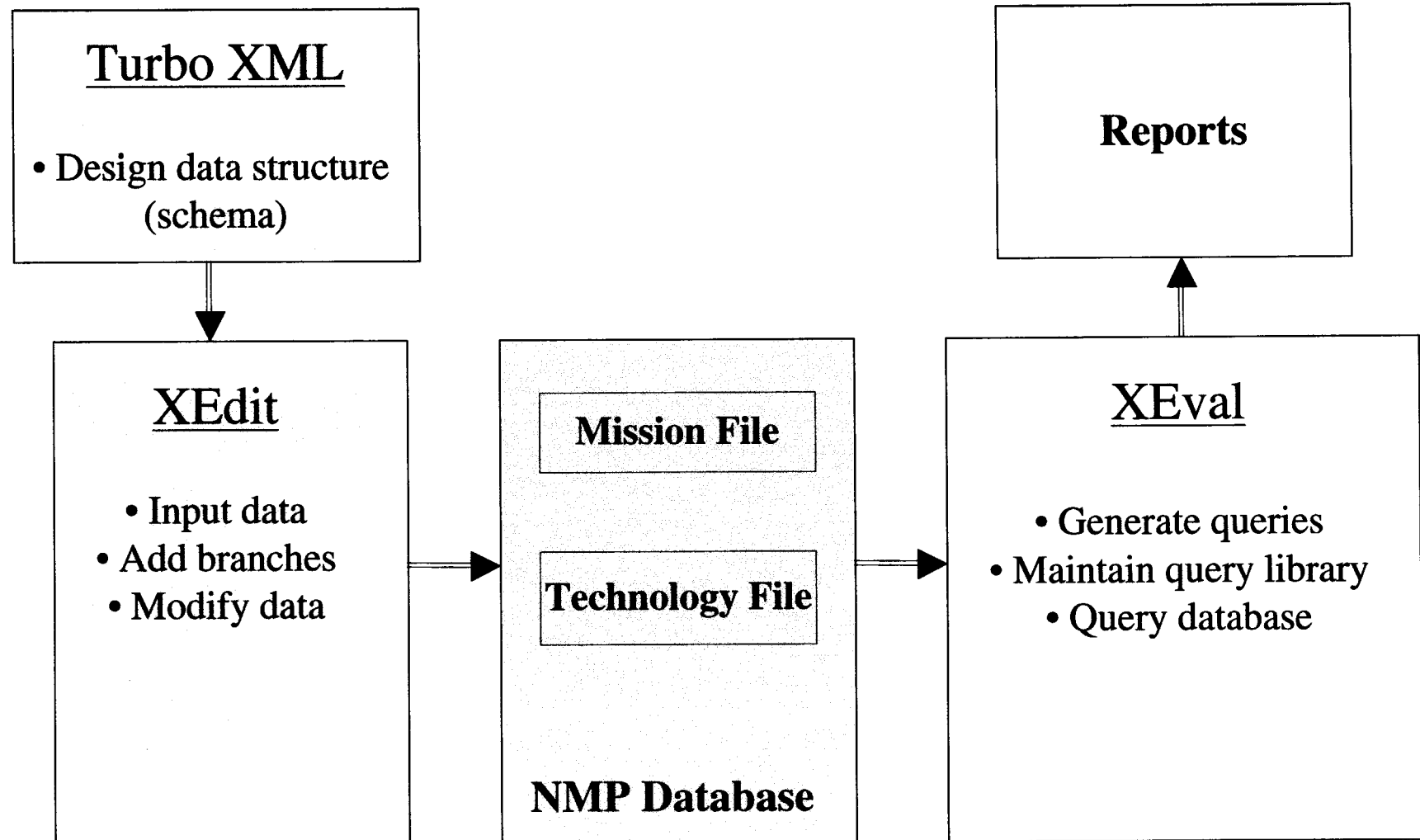
# XML vs Tables





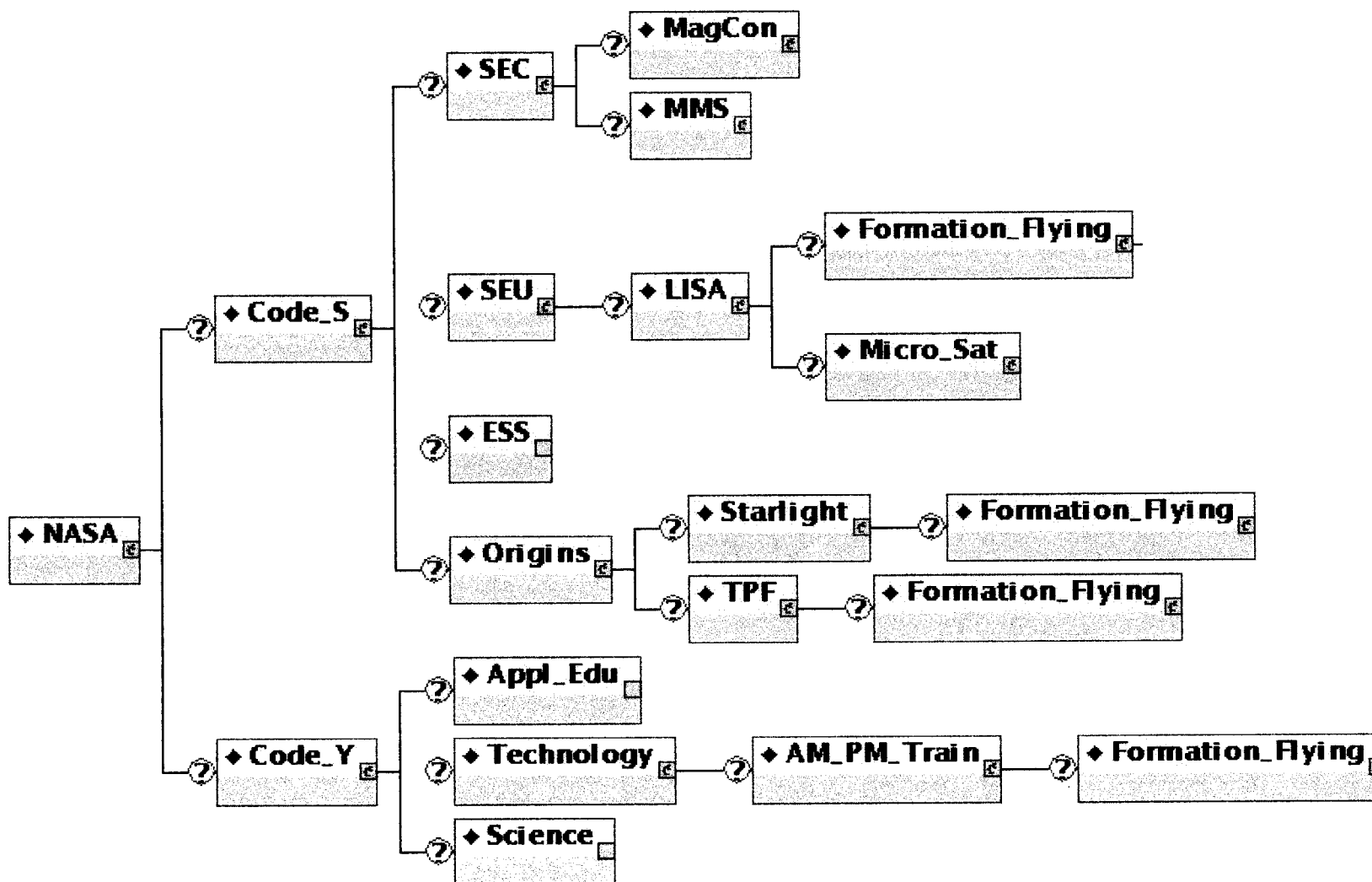


# Overall Architecture





# Schema Editing Tool





## **XEdit : Entering and Editing Data**



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**Developed by this task to handle mission and technology data for NMP**

- ❖ **Changes to schema do not require XEdit modification**
- ❖ **Instead, new JAR files encapsulating schema information are generated by Castor**

Castor is open source code that generates Java descriptor files for each XML element in the schema--used for data binding purposes

- ❖ **XEdit is then run with the new JAR files**

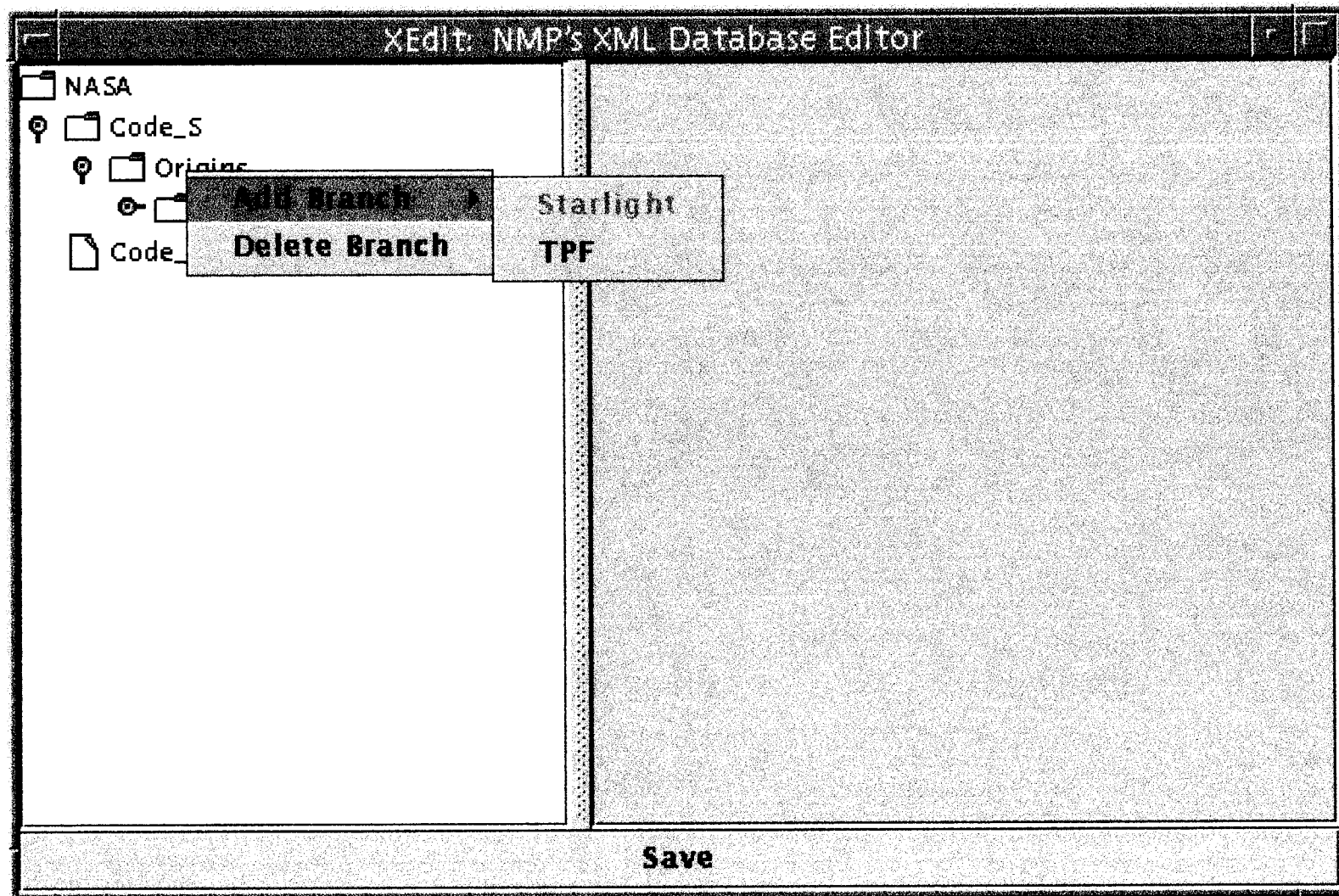
**Inputs data to database and allows hierarchy branches to be added or deleted**

- ❖ **Branch modification is controlled by information in the schema**

**Can enter data values or modify them**



# Adding and Deleting Branches





# Modifying Data Values



XEdit: NMP's XML Database Editor

NASA	Range_Knowledge	2 cm
Code_S	Range_Rate_Knowledge	0.0026 cm/s
Origins	RRK_Measurement_Duration	continuous
Starlight	Operational_Range	30-1000 m
Formation_Flying	Bearing_Knowledge	0.0628 mrad
FF_Technology	Bearing_Rate_Knowledge	$6.77 \times 10^{-5}$ mrad/s
Relative_Nav	BFK_Measurement_Duration	continuous
Inertial_Nav	Field_of_Regard	1.22 rad
Formation_Position_Control	Update_Frequency	1 Hz
Formation_Attitude_Control		
Autonomous_Guidance		
Inter_SC_Comm		
Ground_Comm		
FF_Architecture		
Code_Y		

Save



# Querying the Data



## Web based interface

- ❖ Allows for form based customizable queries
- ❖ Accessible through any web browser
- ❖ Easy to navigate

## Java Servlet backend

- ❖ Processes HTML from posts
- ❖ Interfaces with Qexo (Xquery engine)
- ❖ Query results formatted in HTML

Fully customizable query editor is under development

## New Millennium Program

Developing and testing advanced technology in space flight.

NMPDB Queries

**Sample Query #1**

Find all missions that use capabilities addressed by "IRAS" technology

Execute Query

**Sample Query #2**

Find  Capabilities of Mission

Execute Query

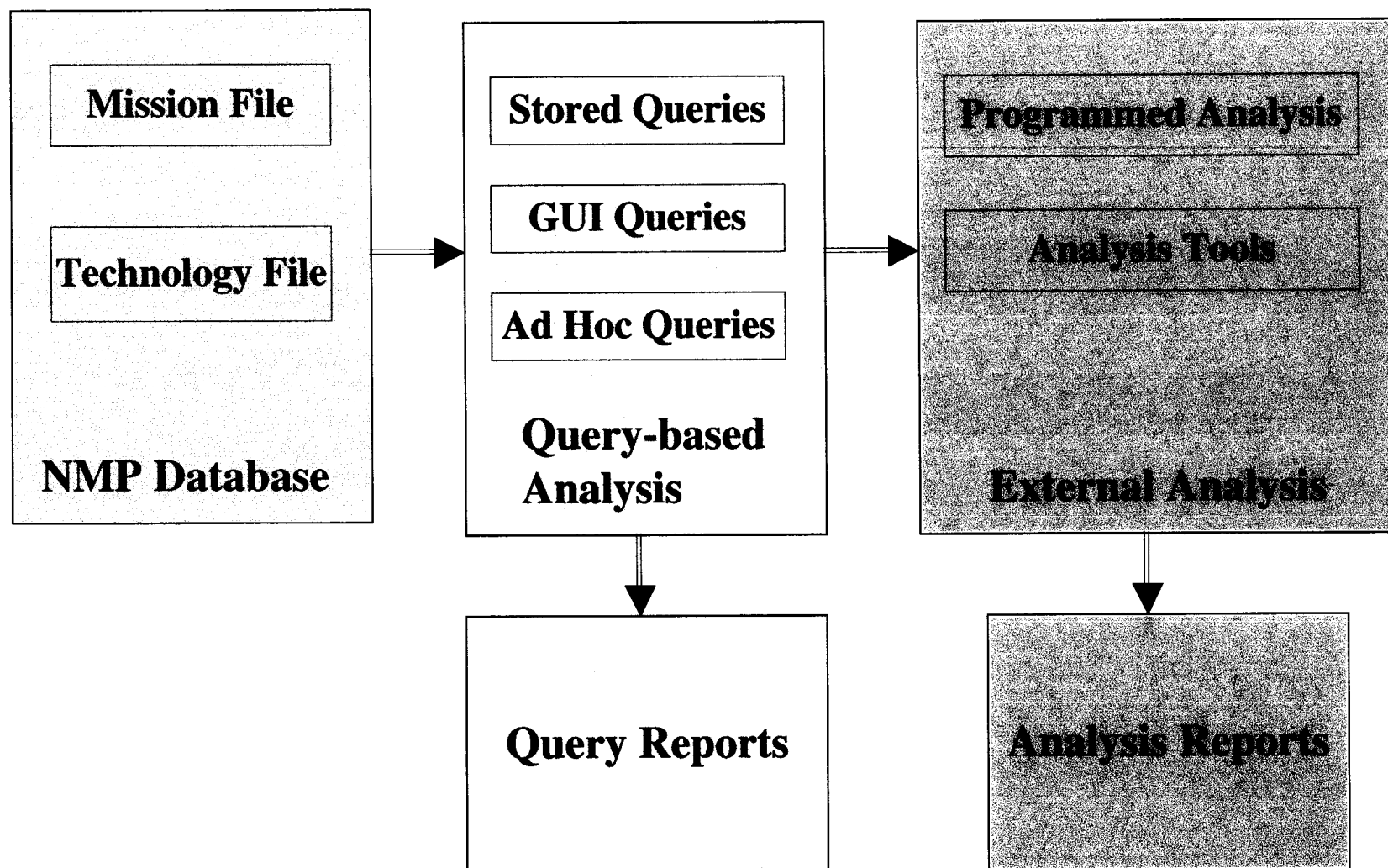
**Sample Query #3**

Find all Technologies that address any Capability needed by mission

Execute Query



# NMP Database Analysis





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### **Database server computer set up**

#### **Software installed**

- ❖ **Mandrake Linux**
- ❖ **NetBeans for Java development**
- ❖ **TurboXML for schema development**
- ❖ **XML Transform for reorganizing database**
- ❖ **Castor for data binding**
- ❖ **Qexo for data querying**

#### **First version of XEdit delivered**

#### **Web based query interface demonstrated for sample queries**





## **Future Plans**



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**Revise XEdit as needed**

**Improve database reorganization process**

**Purchase/modify/write database XML Query engine**

**Purchase/write GUI for query generation**

**Report generator**

- ❖ **Can export data to spreadsheets for further analysis**

**Implement multi-user capabilities**

- ❖ **Assign write privileges to only certain users**



## Summary



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**Hierarchical XML database matches structure of the data**

**Mix of commercial, open-source, and in-house software**

**Industry standards being used: HTML, XML, XSchema, XQuery,  
Java Servlets**

**Have acquired or developed tools for schema generation, data  
entry and modification, data querying**

**Currently working on developing visual interface for data queries**



## Acknowledgement



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**The NMP Office sponsored this work**